



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 506

February Session, 2004

* SB00506FIN__033004__ *

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CLUSTER AND CONNSTEP INITIATIVES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 32-348 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

3 (a) There is hereby established, within the Department of Economic
4 and Community Development, a manufacturing extension service
5 program for the purpose of awarding a grant to the Connecticut
6 manufacturing extension partnership affiliate, which shall be known as
7 CONNSTEP, as designated by the United States Department of
8 Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology.
9 Applications for a grant under this section shall be made and grants
10 shall be awarded in the manner and form prescribed by the
11 commissioner. The extension service's responsibilities shall include,
12 but not be limited to, providing training for small and medium-sized
13 businesses in high performance work practices.

14 (b) For the purposes described in subsection (c) of this section, the
15 State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to
16 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and
17 in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate four million
18 dollars.

19 (c) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the

20 amount stated in subsection [(c)] (b) of this section, shall be used by the
21 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development for the
22 purposes of subsection (a) of this section, provided not more than one
23 hundred thousand dollars of such proceeds shall be used by the
24 commissioner to provide CONNSTEP with funds for the hiring of a
25 national consultant to analyze CONNSTEP and provide practical,
26 affordable strategies for helping small and medium-sized companies
27 become next generation manufacturers. Such analysis shall be
28 compiled in a report and submitted, in accordance with section 11-4a,
29 to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General
30 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce not later
31 than January 1, 2006.

32 (d) All provisions of section 3-20, as amended, or the exercise of any
33 right or power granted thereby which are not inconsistent with the
34 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
35 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
36 section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be
37 derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued
38 in accordance with said section 3-20, as amended, and from time to
39 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
40 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
41 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
42 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
43 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
44 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is
45 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
46 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
47 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
48 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
49 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
50 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
51 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
52 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
53 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the

54 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
55 due.

56 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Governor's Council on Economic
57 Competitiveness and Technology, as established by executive order 13
58 A, shall continue in effect until December 31, 2006, and shall, not later
59 than January 1, 2005, prepare a forecast on the need for and growth
60 and development of industry cluster initiatives and review the state's
61 policy concerning such clusters to determine if such policy will meet
62 the needs of such forecast. The council shall consider such forecast and
63 review in making recommendations for needed changes to state policy
64 to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the General
65 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.

66 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than December 31, 2004, the
67 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall
68 prepare a budget for the allocation of funds by the department for
69 economic and industry cluster initiatives and shall present such
70 budget along with any recommendations concerning the adequacy of
71 such budget, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
72 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce,
73 finance, revenue and bonding, and appropriations.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>

CE Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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